

### **ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE**

An image retrieval method with improved performance in which a data image similar to a query image is retrieved by appropriately combining color and texture features. The method for retrieving a data image similar to a query image in an image database containing a plurality of data images involves: calculating color and texture distances between a query image and each data image in the image database; weighting the calculated color and texture distances with predetermined weighting factors; calculating a feature distance between the query image and each data image by combining the weighted color and texture distances by considering human visual perception attributes; and determining the data image similar to the query image using the feature distance. According to the image retrieval method, data images similar to a query image can be retrieved based on the human visual perception mechanism by combining both color and texture features extracted from image regions. In particular, the image region based retrieval enables accurate retrieval of more objects and many kinds of information from a single image.